

CHALLENGE



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Killer Kops & Kapitalism: Racist Murderers

CHICAGO, September 5—Today marked the beginning of the trial of racist killer cop Jason Van Dyke, who murdered Black teenager Laquan McDonald on October 20, 2014, shooting him 16 times in the back. A multiracial contingent of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) comrades were present at Leighton Criminal Courthouse to win workers toward revolutionary communist struggle. We find Van Dyke and the entire capitalist system, guilty of the murder of Laquan!

Reject misleaders, build a base in the working class.

In recent weeks, Van Dyke's trial has been a hot issue, with many misleaders jumping at the opportunity to divert workers' anger. Today's demonstration outside the courthouse was a chaotic mishmash of police reform groups, non-profit organizations, political candidates, and fake-left revisionists. All of them are contending for influence over the growing movement against the notoriously racist Chicago Police Department and the Democratic parties' political machine.

By and large, the speeches lacked militancy or direction in fighting back against the racist bosses and their cops. Some of the demonstration's self-

proclaimed "leaders" appeared to be very cozy with the hundreds of kkkops present, and were quick to snuff out any confrontation with the racist klan-in-blue. These misleaders collaborated in the corraling of anti-racists within a small fenced area across the street from the courthouse.

Our collective made a decision to leave the fenced-off area and engage with workers entering and exiting the courthouse and on the surrounding blocks. With a bold banner and our "Van Dyke: Guilty of Racist Murder" mugshot signs, we were well received by hundreds of working people in the neighborhood. We distributed close to a thousand fliers and several hundred CHALLENGEs, and engaged in many conversations while getting contact information for follow-up.

To prioritize building a base with workers and youth reflects our Party's political line and our analysis of past revolutionary movements. To be a mass international party, PLP needs to win millions of workers to fight for communism.

The struggle to end racist police murder and capitalism worldwide will succeed only if masses of

workers are empowered and organized in collective efforts to smash this rotten system and build an egalitarian communist society in its place.

Kkkourts and kkkops go hand-in- hand

The general thrust of the bosses' media and the rally's speakers is to let the courts serve justice and to keep all protests peaceful, regardless of the verdict for Van Dyke. But to play by the capitalist bosses' rules lends legitimacy to their system of private property and profit, which has always enforced a bloody dictatorship over the working class.

In pretrial proceedings, the bosses' criminal injustice system has shown nothing but favoritism to racist murderer Van Dyke. Judge Vincent Gaughan didn't hesitate to lock up workers for any small disturbance that he considered "contempt of court." Meanwhile, he granted Van Dyke's lawyers almost any accommodation they requested to try and get their child-murdering client off the hook. When Van Dyke broke the court's gag order against speaking to the media, Gaughan chose only to add \$2,000 to the killer's \$1.5 million bail (Chicago Tribune, 9/6).

As communists, we know that the bosses' courts and laws are designed to defend their system. Whatever this trial's outcome, we know that the capitalist state can never be reformed to defend workers' rights. True justice comes with com-



munist revolution, not by following the bosses' laws to uphold their property and power.

Turn up for Laquan

Our Party has proudly built the struggle for justice for Laquan since his tragic murder at the hands of the capitalist state. We commit ourselves to continued bold actions, like the time we marched on Van Dyke's house, and to connect this act of state terror to other racist murders and attacks from the bosses. More to come from this struggle!✊

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Fascists at war

U.S. bosses divisions cut deep

The main wing of the U.S. ruling class is on the offensive to contain President Donald Trump’s threat to the liberal world order—the military, political, and economic system that sustained the U.S. bosses’ dominance—and profits—since World War II. Whether or not Trump winds up getting impeached or indicted, the chaos surrounding the White House is a stark sign of the decline of the U.S. empire.

On August 21, special counsel and former FBI director Robert Mueller won convictions on eight counts of financial fraud against Paul Manafort, Trump’s former campaign chairman. Minutes earlier, Michael Cohen, Trump’s former lawyer and fixer, pleaded guilty to bank and tax fraud and directly implicated Trump in a campaign finance violation. On September 5, the New York Times, the main wing’s leading mouthpiece, published an Op-Ed piece by an anonymous “senior official in the Trump administration.”

The author acknowledged that main-wing operatives in and around the White House “are working diligently from within to frustrate parts of [Trump’s] agenda and his worst inclinations....to preserve our democratic institutions while thwarting Mr. Trump’s more misguided impulses until he is out of office.”

In particular, the Op-Ed cited the president’s “preference” for Russian President Vladimir Putin, a main-wing imperialist arch-rival, and for North Korea’s Kim Jong-un, a leaning that could imperil the U.S. military presence in South Korea and its ability to deter or attack China.

On September 7, ex-President Barack Obama broke with tradition and openly savaged his predecessor’s “threat to our democracy”—in other words, capitalist dictatorship. On September 11, Simon & Schuster published Bob Woodward’s *Fear*, which depicts “a dysfunctional White House where some of Trump’s own aides think he is a danger to national security” (cnn.com, 9/12). Woodward is the Washington Post editor who once helped bring down Richard Nixon, another president who proved too unreliable for the main wing. *Fear* sold 750,000 copies in one day and immediately became one of Amazon’s top-five sellers for 2018, along with other Trump takedowns by Michael Wolff and former FBI director James Comey.

Rulers’ split is getting bloodier

Accelerated by the global erosion of their political and economic influence, the split within the U.S. capitalist class is growing clearer and sharper by the day. Finance capital, represented by the Democratic Party and traditional Republicans (see box), needs to rein in Trump and his racist base to protect institutions like NATO and prepare for World War III with inter-imperialist rivals China and Russia. These Big Fascists are pulling out the knives against domestically oriented capitalists like the Koch brothers and the Mercer family. For their part, the Little Fascists are advancing their isolationist, “Fortress America” agenda through the erratic Trump, his “anti-globalist” policy-makers like Steven Miller (and formerly Steve Bannon), and media outlets like Rupert Murdoch’s Fox empire and Breitbart News.

The recent weeks’ events show that the main wing rulers (Big Fascists), however weakened, still hold the upper hand. But regardless of how the bosses’ infighting plays out, the international working class will be assaulted by rising fascism, murderous racism, economic crisis, and a looming global conflict that could kill untold millions. Only a mass communist, anti-racist movement, led by Progressive Labor Party (PLP), can defend our class against the growingly desperate bosses. Only a communist revolution can smash the capitalists’ state-terror apparatus and put an end to imperialist war.

Fall of the American Century

As Obama noted in his speech at the University of Illinois, Trump “is a symptom, not the cause” of the U.S. capitalists’ disarray. In 2016, when this unstable con man exploited gutter racism and weak opposition all the way to the White House, it revealed that the main wing was losing its grip—both on its own capitalist class and on the loyalties of workers.

The finance capitalists’ decline was driven by two catastrophic failures. First, after spending \$5.7 trillion on war in Iraq, the second-leading source of cheap pe-

Who’s in the main wing?

The main wing of the U.S. ruling class represents the interests of finance capital. It includes the largest banks and financial institutions, like JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, as well ExxonMobil and other multinational corporations. Together they established the post-World War II imperialist liberal world order, in which the U.S. dominates the world economy by controlling Middle East oil and guaranteeing that the U.S. dollar remains the worldwide reserve currency. They created and control institutions such the World Bank, NAFTA, the IMF, and other international economic institutions. They created NATO and other military and political alliances. Over the last 60 years, these international agreements and institutions have brought these capitalists billions of dollars in profit—all paid for with the blood and misery of tens of millions of workers exploited across the globe.

troleum, U.S. imperialism finds itself in a weaker position in the Middle East than before. Iraq’s oil supplies remain insecure. European allies are turning to meet their energy needs from Russia, which is also calling the shots in war-devastated Syria. Second, the financial crisis of 2008 was spurred by short-term greed and a general lack of discipline in main-wing financial powers like Lehman Brothers and Goldman Sachs. Obama’s subsequent bailout of banks and other financial institutions cost \$17 trillion.. By 2014, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), China had surpassed the U.S. as the world’s largest economy (bbc.com, 12/16/14). By 2050, the U.S. economy is projected to rank third, behind both China and India (fortune.com, 2/9/17).

It’s not Trump it’s fascism

Trump himself is a minor historical figure. He will likely be neutralized by the upcoming midterm elections and most likely forced out, one way or another, by 2021.

But the Trump phenomenon is highly significant as a marker of rising fascism worldwide. It reflects the advanced decay of the post-World War II order and the glaring inability of the profit system to meet workers’ most basic needs. The extreme instability of capitalism worldwide has generated massive unemployment and wage stagnation, the erosion of the European safety net, an epidemic of opioid addiction and suicide, and a more than 68 million refugees, internally displaced people, and asylum-seekers (www.unhcr.org).

To divert workers’ anger from the capitalist rulers’ failures, the bosses are blaming the most vulnerable victims—with a vengeance. Hence the monsoon of anti-immigrant racism, a basic building block of electoral success for Trump and his European counterparts. Open fascists have taken power in Italy, Hungary, Poland, and Turkey. They represent significant opposition forces in Germany, France, Britain, and Greece. In the September 9 parliamentary elections in Sweden, until recently romanticized by the bosses’ media as a bastion of enlightened “social democracy,” the fascist Sweden Democrats polled a record 18 percent (rt.com, 9/9). The liberal world order is in retreat. Internationally, the bosses’ current crisis presents PLP with a significant opportunity. By strengthening our anti-nationalist, anti-racist fightback, by uniting with immigrant workers wherever we are active, we can both grow as a revolutionary organization and lay bare the insoluble contradictions of capitalism.

Liberals are the main danger

As the U.S. approaches its midterm elections this November, the Big Fascists are positioning themselves as defenders of “democracy”—a gross distortion of their true history as racist mass murderers. The bosses are hoping to counter workers’ cynicism—and the alienation of Black, Latin, and younger workers, in particular—with fake “socialists” like New York’s Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, militant-sounding liberal misleaders like Ayanna Pressley in Massachusetts, and the Black gubernatorial candidates in Georgia and Florida. All of these Democratic Party politicians depend on

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Report back from Israel

Arab & Jewish workers resist Apartheid



ISRAEL, September 12—Progressive Labor Party comrades journeyed to Israel-Palestine to visit with Israeli Arab friends and some students interested in the party's politics.

The working class here continues to find ways to resist the Israeli apartheid. Many Arab workers have fought to remain in their homes, despite being told their houses are “illegal.” They protested to keep their language alive (even as the Zionists seek to erase it). The nationality law passed by the Knesset has declared that only the Jewish are citizens of the state. There were mass protests in response to this unjust, racist law. Our comrades distributed 40 CHALLENGEs and made two contacts.

Life under Apartheid

During a meeting with the students, they shared how difficult the day-to-day life is for Palestinians. Those who live in the West Bank cannot go to Jerusalem without (rarely given) permits from the Israeli government and even then must pass through racist checkpoints each time.

Even Arab citizens of Israel, face racist discrimination that funds their public schools with a tiny fraction of the amount that goes to Jewish schools although both groups are subject to the same taxes. Then, racism keeps them from getting into colleges. “We have to work twice as hard to show that we are just as deserving as them (Jewish workers)” and still usually do not get in”, one student said.

It's the same for us everywhere

The U.S. comrades drew links between the struggles of Arab youth and those of Black youth in the United States. One student affirmed, “They use the same racist tactics everywhere.”

Black and Latin workers in the U.S are terrorized by cops and shot down with impunity. Many live in impoverished conditions. Unemployment for Black and Latin workers in the U.S is typically twice that of white workers. Schools in poor working-class neighborhoods are poorly funded. Black and Hispanic workers face displacement due to gentrification.

Similarly, though far more openly fascist, the Israeli government continues to oppress and super-exploit Arab families. The poverty is immediately noticeable in many Arab villages. Though both Arab and Jew workers are taxed equal amounts, the services rendered to Jewish workers, especially to fascist settlers far outweigh those provided in Arab communities such as Sho'fat and Ana'tah.

In Jerusalem, the comrades took a political tour of an area where a road was built straight through an Arab community, dividing families and destroying parts of the land's rich agriculture. “Can you imagine this life?” the tour guide asked. “How can you raise a child in this situation? He will grow up angry. He looks over there”, the guide said, pointing to the Israeli colony, “And he sees that they have everything. Why wouldn't he be angry?”

He continued, “If you come here as a tourist, you would think the Arabs are dirty, they don't care; when actually the city does not clean their streets.”

The crime of being Arab

If a child in the West Bank gets into a non-government school in Jerusalem, (s)he has to wake at dawn to pass the racist checkpoints. The gates may be closed without warning. Many Arab families have been murdered at these very checkpoints for various reasons. “If a twelve-year old is angry with this [situation] takes a knife and waves it in the [Israeli] soldier's face, should they then shoot him? This is what they [Israeli soldiers] will do,” the guide informed us. In Israel, a child is killed for the crime of being Arab!

Jewish workers fed racism

The students said it is difficult to remain hopeful. They shared their desires to study at the universities in Israel, but were fretful about being admitted because of the racism that exists to keep Arab and Jewish students segregated. The Israeli ruling class has injected their racist poison into the Jewish working class. Jewish live segregated neighborhoods. They have been taught to fear Arab workers, just as in the U.S, the white working class has been taught to fear Black, Latin, and immigrant workers. Arab students are harassed daily upon their arrival to the universities they are matriculated in. Both the Jewish and Arab working class must pass security before entering train/bus stations and malls.

The struggle for Progressive Labor Party is to win the working class in occupied Palestine to fight for communism. How do we move workers from “Resist, my people” to “Workers of the world unite”?

It is easy to become despondent when we look at our surroundings. That is why we must share the fightback of workers around the world. The fight is bigger than what is happening in “our” countries. We have a world to win, and nothing to lose but our chains! ✪

Teachers beat back bosses' pay cuts

LOS ANGELES—Base building and long-term struggle have laid the groundwork for big things to come at one high school in California. From the first day I started teaching at the school, I have put my politics in the forefront and built relationships with teachers and students that are centered on openly discussing the world situation.

During lunch, teachers chat about everything from conditions for students at the school to imperialism all over the globe. Teachers and students have waged struggles against scanning and large class sizes, as well as attended large rallies around issues of immigration, police murder, and women's rights. There is an understanding amongst both teachers and students that we must be active in the world around us in order to change it.

The administration at this school does not understand this foundation that has been laid. So when they tried to start off our school year explaining how teachers would be docked an hour's pay for being even a minute late to work and that we would be docked pay if we left campus at any time throughout the day, even during our lunch, they assumed we would just roll over and say ok.

At the initial meeting where this attack was laid out, one teacher spoke passionately about how she worked at a school before where this policy was enforced and how it impacted both staff and students. That was enough to get the ball rolling. Staff held planning meetings to discuss how to fight back against this attack.

Part of the plan involved contacting the union for support. We found out quickly that the union president had already given the administration the thumbs up on the plan without even discussing it with our staff. In the course of just one week of work, our staff has now learned the important lesson of the role played by union misleaders.

Even though the top leadership of the union sold us out, our union reps demanded a meeting with the administration to discuss this attack. The administration framed this to the staff as a collaborative meeting and had the goal of getting the staff to set the terms of the attack in order to fool us into more willingly accepting it. We met beforehand as a staff and decided that we would make no concessions to the administration, that we would demand these policies not be enforced and we would be involved in setting the parameters for how they can abuse us.

The meeting went as you would expect. The administration occupied 15 minutes of a 45 minute “collaborative meeting” to talk about how hurt they are that the staff is making such a big deal out of this and destroying our “family” environment at the school. Two of the three administrators even cried.

Their tears did not fool us or deter us. As I said, the groundwork for bold fight back had already been laid. The staff stood united and strong. We said NO! The final outcome of this has yet to be seen, but at this point it appears that we have won the battle.

In the future, we will need to do a better job of connecting attacks like these to students and their families. We know that any attack on the working conditions of teachers is really an attack on the learning conditions of students. This has to be made clearer to the whole staff though so that our organizing strategy embodies that understanding. Overall though, a little fight back has gone a long way in bringing us closer together as a staff and shifting everyone slightly to the left. I look forward to a long history of fight back and struggle with everyone! ✪

Editorial: Fascists at War

Continued from page 2

and defend the capitalist system. When push comes to shove, they will betray the working class on the road to fascism and genocide. The over-the-top celebration of war criminal John McCain (see page 4), whom Ocasio-Cortez lauded for his “human decency,” was designed to rally both workers and capitalists around the embattled liberal world order. Obama’s headlining appearance at the dead senator’s funeral, side-by-side with George W. Bush, reflected a concerted, bipartisan effort to revive the main wing. Leaders and stooges of finance capital are pointing the way to a more lethal form of fascism than Trump and his cronies could even imagine.

But working-class fightback is alive and well. Workers and students in many cities are standing up to attacks on immigrants by both ICE and Trump’s gutter-racist base. These struggles are opportunities for working-class consciousness to take root. With PLP involvement and leadership, the working class will take the only alternative to fascism, big and small—the path to communism revolution.☸

Hawaii hotel workers potential to strike



HAWAII, September 10—On Labor Day afternoon, 300 hotel workers and supporters demonstrated in Waikiki in front of two Marriott International hotels, demanding that one job be enough to live on. The police were unable to stop the workers from blocking traffic. The workers in Marriott-operated hotels in Honolulu and Maui have voted to authorize a strike, with a 95 percent yes vote. “Marriott hotel workers will also be taking strike votes on September 12 in Boston, September 13 in San Francisco and San Jose, and September 14 in Seattle. In total, the nationwide strike votes will cover over 8,000 union UNITE HERE workers in more than 20 hotels in six major hotel markets for the

Marriotts in Honolulu, Maui, Boston, San Francisco, San Jose, and Seattle” (Khon 2,9/10). This could potentially mean 8,000 workers on strike in more than 20 hotels.

Similar hotel worker demonstrations were held in eight cities nationwide. In San Francisco, where 75 workers were arrested, demonstrators blocked the cable car line at Union Square for more than 90 minutes. Union leaders said the workers were demanding a “fair share” of hotel profits. Communists want a system in which capitalists have no share in anything. The entire system of capitalist exploitation must be eradicated.☸

Good riddance! John McCain, racist mass murderer

September 25-The racist war hawk is finally dead! The late Senator John McCain is being celebrated by the ruling class as a great “hero”—an elaborate display of self-serving hero-worship for their own benefit. But McCain was a determined enemy of the working class, in the U.S. and around the world – both as warmonger and lawmaker.

Never a hero, always a criminal

The son and grandson of admirals, McCain was a pilot in the U.S. war against the Vietnamese (from the 1960-70s). McCain was a dive bomber pilot, murdering indiscriminately from the sky, dropping bombs and napalm on the working class in Vietnam. He gained fame when his plane was shot down and he was captured, spending five years in a prisoners of war camp (POW).

While many Vietnam veterans came to understand the imperialist and racist nature of the war, McCain internalized U.S. imperialism’s racism. In spite of his captors fishing him out of a lake, treating his wounds and keeping him alive, long after the war. Yet McCain continued to call Vietnamese workers by racist terms, boasting that he would hate them his whole life.

Along with racism, the fable that U.S. wars defend U.S. workers, rather than capitalist profits, underlies the term “hero” as applied by the bosses to those who willingly slaughter our class sisters and brothers overseas. In that vein the ruling class hailed this murderer as a hero.

To the working class, the real heroes in Vietnam were the workers whose communist-led People’s War, defeated U.S. imperialism. As well as the tens of thousands of U.S. working-class soldiers who rebelled against the bosses war.

McCain parlayed his second wife’s wealth along with his military service into a long political career. With four years in the House and thirty-one years in the Senate, he was the Republican choice to oppose Barack Obama for president in 2008. During that campaign McCain raised warmongering in the Middle East to an art form, famously singing about bombing Iran, among other targets. He was among the first to push President George W. Bush for an invasion of Iraq following 9/11.

McCain’s undeserved reputation as a “maverick” obscured his consistent support for the general interests of our exploiters and oppressors. While he occasionally opposed President Trump publicly, he voted with him 80 percent of the time. Furthermore, like Trump, he was a consistent racist, keeping white supremacists on his payroll (Daily Kos 6/19/2008), voting against making Martin Luther King’s birthday a federal holiday, and opposing the removal of the Confederate flag from South Carolina’s Statehouse.

Never saw a war he didn’t like

In the 1980s McCain was a supporter of the Nicaraguan Contras, notorious for rape, torture, and murder. McCain’s unflagging support for U.S. wars included those against Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and his backing of the current years-long Saudi bombing in Yemen that is still causing massive deaths, hunger, and disease. He advocated air strikes against North Korea, supported anti-semitic neo-Nazi Oleh Tyannybok, leader of the extreme right-wing Svoboda party in Ukraine, and pushed Trump to provide them with military aid to surround Russia with pro-U.S. fascist regimes (Business Insider 12/16/2013).

As Rolling Stone magazine described him “He never saw an invasion he didn’t support, and it’s sadly fitting that the last piece of legislation to bear his name was a massive military spending hike that scored the rare trifecta of support from mainstream Democrats, Republicans and Donald Trump.” (Rolling Stone 8/28)

Even politicians who pose as friends of the working class help to build the cult around McCain and praise him in death in order to further their own careers and promote the myth that bosses and workers in the U.S. have the same interests. (e.g., Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez).

Never pretended to be pro-worker

McCain, however, never pretended he had working-class sympathies. He had a solid voting record against taxing big business, and he was always for increased imperialist military spending, and domestic surveillance of the working class. In addition he was a sexist who spoke in favor of overturning Roe vs Wade (which legalized abortions), and rarely voted in favor of rights for immigrants, and unions. He also never voted for critical things like environmental protection or education funding (<https://bit.ly/2x4SD1D>).

Murderers like McCain will never serve the needs of our class. The politicians and pundits who have jumped to praise him are only exposing whose side they are really on. Our class’ future depends on liberating ourselves from the horrors of capitalism by fighting for a communist society.☸

Book Review

U.S government engineered housing segregation



Chicago residents protest against exploitative housing

“Racial segregation in housing ... was a nationwide project of the federal government ... designed and implemented by its most liberal leaders ... racially explicit policies of federal, state, and local governments defined where whites and African Americans should liveThe policy was so systematic and forceful that its effects endure to the present time.” These quotes are from the preface to *The Color of Law*, a new book by Richard Rothstein. The general ignorance of the history of *de jure* (by law) segregation is so profound that Chief Justice John Roberts could get away with saying that since residential segregation “is a product not of state action but of private choices, it does not have constitutional implications.” Rothstein also shows how racist housing laws contributed to segregated education, income differentials, the large differences in wealth between Blacks and whites, and stymied working class unity.

The diehard racist Woodrow Wilson was elected in 1912. He oversaw total segregation in every area of work, from bathrooms to cafeterias. The first federal housing was built for defense workers during World War I, exclusively for white families. Black workers were forced into segregated slums often far from their jobs.

Local municipalities began to develop zoning laws that required homes with lots that would make them unaffordable to most Black workers. President Hoover’s advisor, Frederick Olmsted, stated, “ in any housing developments which are to succeed...racial divisions...have to be taken into account”.

Zoning laws, could not completely exclude middle or higher income Blacks. This was tackled by exclusionary lending practices. Since the Russian Revolution, Washington was terrified of the attraction that communism might hold and sought to encourage single home ownerships as a way to give white families a stake in capitalism. In 1933, the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation (HOLC) began easing terms for mortgages. To exclude Blacks, HOLC drew color-coded maps of every urban area to define areas of “risk”, which were colored red and included all Black areas. This is the origin of the term redlining. President Roosevelt’s New Deal housing programs were all segregated by race or excluded Blacks altogether.

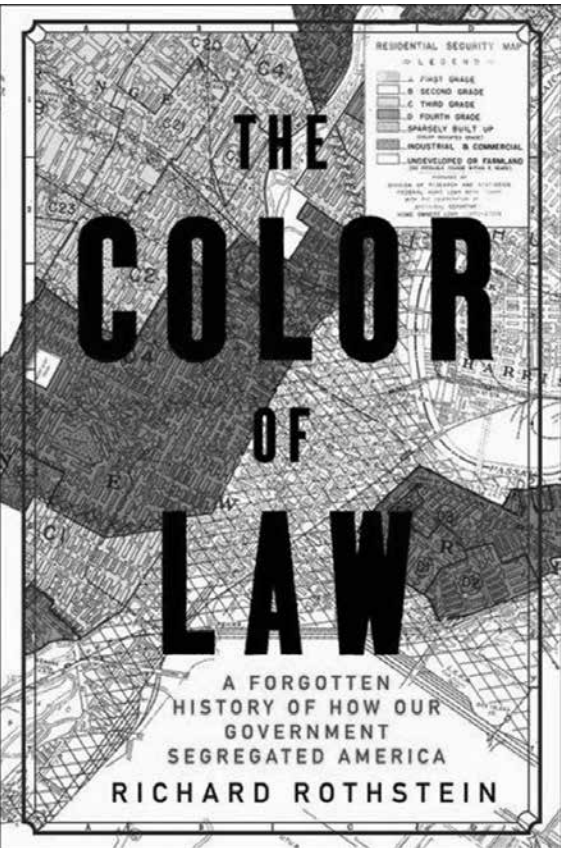
The New Deal’s Public Works Administration (PWA) strove to increase housing for middle and working class, but its housing was required to follow “neighborhood composition,” thereby maintaining patterns of separation. In 1937, the U.S. Housing Authority, which continued the same policies, replaced the PWA; in 1940 The Lanham Act created defense-worker housing only for whites.

The Federal Housing Authority (FHA), created in 1934, required absolute racial segregation. The FHA also discouraged loans in urban neighborhoods and encouraged them in newly built suburbs. Blacks could only get private home loans, with higher interest rates.

Post WW II the FHA permitted local authorities to continue building segregated public housing. Veterans Administration (VA) loan appraisers were financing most housing by 1948, all in segregated developments. Only 2 percent of purchasers were Black GIs. In 1954 the Eisenhower administration declared that the invalidation of “separate but equal” in education did not apply to housing. As late as 1984, 10 million federally funded housing tenants in 47 metropolitan areas were almost all segregated by race and every predominantly white project had superior facilities, amenities, and services. In 1973, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights concluded that the “housing industry, aided and abetted by government, must bear the primary responsibility for the legacy of segregated housing.”

The author also discusses how Black neighborhoods were nearer to industrial and polluted areas, and had inferior schools and transportation. Rothstein decries the long-term segregation and inequality that has been created, seeing it both as a moral evil and a loss for the society as a whole. He proposes some solutions, but acknowledges they are unlikely to be enacted.

What the author fails to consider is that the



American capitalist system depends on racism for survival. The wage differentials alone between Black workers and White workers add up to about half of total corporate profits. Not only do lower wages and services save huge amounts of money, but segregation insures that Blacks and whites will live and be educated apart, keeping racism alive. Racism divides working people from each other. When Black workers earn lower wages and have higher unemployment, wages and working conditions for all suffer. When imperialist wars are to be fought racism is needed to brand the enemy as fearsome and inferior. When increased rebellion looms as conditions worsen, fascist repression relies on racism and nationalism.

We in the Progressive Labor Party see fighting racism, nationalism and identity politics as essential to building a movement that can wipe the scourge of capitalism from the earth and build an international communist movement. Living together would help us fight together for an egalitarian communist world.✪

Texas workers respond to global refugee crisis

TEXAS, September 8—Last week anti-racist workers and students analyzed the international refugee crisis, explaining that imperialist rivalry between major capitalist powers is causing chaos and only multiracial unity can end it. They turned that analysis into a flyer and began handing it out at bus stations in a major southwestern city. Hundreds of drivers rolled down their windows to take it. Many people took extra copies for their friends. Two bus drivers invited a person distributing the flyer aboard to hand them out to passengers. One driver remained at a stop until everyone received a copy.

The flyer explained that U.S. rulers’ who fight for dwindling profits against European, Russian and Chinese bosses uses racism as its cutting edge. U.S.-caused chaos from the Middle East to Guatemala and Venezuela is destabilizing and destroying millions of working-class lives.

Major capitalist nations are placing the cost of their economic crisis and rivalries on the backs of smaller countries’ workers through drone attacks, mass murder using U.S.-provided bombs, mass starvation caused by “sanctions,” depriving them of medical supplies, education, and more. Many Black, Latin and white workers who read the analysis saw their own exploitation mirrored

in the hell refugees everywhere are going through. Racism is a worldwide tool and capitalism’s basis.

We also explained Venezuela and Yemen in detail: 15,000 casualties and a million cholera cases in Yemen; tens of thousands fleeing Venezuela every day because of food shortages caused by U.S. sanctions. The world’s future under capitalism is more worker displacement and vicious racism to justify it.

The racist crap is the same inside the U.S. The bosses trying deceive workers into believe that Latin immigrants and Black workers are causing all the problems, instead of blaming the bosses who only survive by pitting workers against each other so everyone’s pay can be driven down.

The solution is not voting for a lesser evil or relying on any politician. Instead, workers must unite as a class across all borders. Borders only benefit the ruling-class and must be abolished. Everyone must wage this fight on our jobs, in our neighborhoods and schools. As workers, we have the power to shut down the bosses’ profit machine. Only through our labor do they make profits. That means that we have the power, but only if we organize and fight back through organizing for and creating communist revolution.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all **CHALLENGE** readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



Workers need multiracial unity, not nationalism

When the news of separating families in detention centers blew up on social media this summer, the Cosecha Movement put out a call to take actions in our communities that highlighted this injustice of capitalism. Cosecha is a mass organization fighting at the national level for permanent protection or citizenship reform for undocumented workers.

The team of Cosecha in New Jersey, currently organizing around a reform for driving licenses, demonstrated on July 4. They aimed to highlight the contradiction between the propaganda of U.S. exceptionalism and liberal freedom and the dirty reality that U.S. imperialists reap profits from the forced movement and control of working-class people within its borders.

They temporarily recognized it was important to pause their current reform work in order to organize against racist detention and deportation, and to build greater solidarity between citizen and immigrant workers.

This was a way to sharpen the consciousness of working class people. Progressive Labor Party is striving for multiracial unity and against nationalist ideas within the Cosecha movement. Workers’ strength comes from fighting as one to build an international communist revolution.

Our strength comes from the leadership of workers committed to understanding the relationship between a communist future and sharpening the struggle in mass organizations. What that means is fighting for the most revolutionary idea and practice within

a movement and winning as many people within our sphere of influence to long-term commitment to PLP.

Workers who are citizens cannot free themselves without embracing the militancy and subversive tendencies of immigrant workers who at some point had the courage to challenge racist borders enough to cross them. Likewise, immigrant workers cannot free themselves without understanding that their very existence contradict the idea that we need such a thing as a national ruling class.

Capitalist governments spend so much money and time trying to convince us otherwise. The bosses, no matter their nationality or race, exploit us. This nationalism only protects bosses and divides workers.

★★★★★

We are more alike than different

When I made the connection between South Africa and Israel’s apartheid system, a friend told me that these situations are completely different. This experience helped me understand why we must be students of dialectical materialism (science of understanding and changing reality). In doing so, we can better analyze the essence of our struggles and pierce through the likeness and difference in the nature of those struggles.

Indeed, our struggles are unique and complicated, but our enemies are the same, and their tactics are similar. Though the degree of state-sponsored violence may be more in one place than others, they are still the same racist attacks. Therefore our response must be to win workers of the world to a communist revolution.

I asked another friend if he believes that a communist revolution is possible: “For me, it is not a matter of whether or not it is possible. What is important is that you want it; but if you think about whether or not it is possible, then you begin to despair when you look at the reality that surrounds you.”

We must continue to struggle with our friends, families, co-workers, and each other, to remain confident in the working class and our potential. Communists must help others see the bigger picture (the need for a communist revolution), even as we struggle on immediate issues (reforms).

It is so important that we write to CHALLENGE about our fight back so that workers everywhere can be encouraged and know that the struggle continues and that workers are not just giving in to the bosses’ racist schemes. Our hope is not in the bosses, but in each other.

★★★★★

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Vets rip racist McCain

The following is an introduction and conversation between two war veteran friends of Progressive Labor Party in Hawaii.

We were disgusted by the fake glorification of John McCain. We were in the Navy and saw U.S. carrier planes devastate the working class in Vietnam. The ruling class used fake concern about “prisoners” held by the North Vietnamese in a failed attempt to counter the anti-war movement. After its crushing defeat in Vietnam, the U.S. ruling class tried to whip up patriotism and anti-Asian racism with fake stories about North Vietnamese still holding and “torturing” U.S. soliders as pprisoners of war (POWs.) Rambo movies were another example of this same effort.

We talked about the racism among junior officers from personal experience. The captain of my ship bragged about sailors on his previous ship beating up Filipino waiters at an EM Club (social club for military perosnnel) at the U.S Naval Base Subic Bay for no other reason than racist “fun.”

Vet 1: Hey man, are you still wearing your black arm band — for John McCain?

Vet 2: McCain: Amazing how no one mentions his role in the *Keating 5 scandal, and all his other criminal activities.

WAR HERO: Destroying Vietnamese villages until they shot him down. The villagers were about to kill him, but unfortunately some cadre [Communist Party political leader] saved his ass and put him in prison, which made him a “hero.” Year was 1967, the year the “awful” SPA statement was issued in Hawaii. By the way, McCain said he made a “mistake” by getting involved with Keating, who destroyed about 1,200 Savings and Loan institutions. He said that only after he got caught riding around in Keating’s private jet with some prostitutes.

VET 1: Seems to be a pattern there. Didn’t he also apologize and say he made a mistake when he led the way in Arizona to oppose making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a holiday.

VET 2: Oh yeah. Same little song and dance. But he was a good old boy. Came from a long line of slave-owning plantation rulers in Mississippi.

VET 1: He was the life of all those parties in in Washington DC.

VET 2: Only thing he ever disagreed with Trump about was how best to exploit workers from Mexico.

VET 1: Yeah. Trump thinks Mexican workers are best used as scapegoats for all that is wrong with this country—the corruption, unemployment.

VET 2: McCain said, “You fool! We get them to do the jobs nobody else will do—and then we terrorize ‘em with immigration pigs and deportation proceedings. Even Obama understands that!”

VET 1: It was a tactical difference among thieves and exploiters.

VET 2: Hey! How different can Trump and McCain be? Wasn’t it Johnny Boy who gave Sarah Palin and all those drooling idiots in the Tea Party a national stage?

VET 1: Oh well. The ruling class is hard up for heroes.

VET 2: Yeah. They can’t focus on glorifying that fool Ronald Reagan forever.

VET 1: Liberals and conservatives alike. Liberals lie to themselves more blatantly than they lie to the public. In 2008, during McCain’s presidential campaign, John Lewis, said that McCain’s campaign rallies reminded him of the rallies for segregationist Alabama Governor George Wallace (who was a Democrat). Lewis was a civil rights movement leader. He marched with Dr. King in Selma. Now he’s in the House of Representatives as a Georgia Democrat. He later backed off his criticism of McCain and joined the “he’s a hero” chorus. He said his anti-McCain remarks were “misinterpreted.”

VET 2: He’s been hangin’ around too much with Hillary Clinton, Obama and all those other fine liberals.

VET 1: It’s a pathetic story. McCain was the best “hero” they could find after the disaster and defeat of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam.

VET 2: The Vietnam War a continuous series of war crimes. It was a genocidal war. And that fool McCain was just one of thousands of young racist officers that bought into all the anti-communist and anti-Asian propaganda put out by the U.S. government.

**The Keating Five were 5U.S. Senators accused of corruption in 1989, igniting a major political scandal as part of the larger savings and loan crisis of the late 1980s and early 1990s.*

Joseph Stalin – communist most feared and hated by capitalists

The U.S. ruling class reviles Joseph Stalin, one of the first communist leaders of the Soviet Union (USSR), and so they lie about him. But they lie about so many things, why would they tell the truth about Stalin? Yet the capitalist slander campaign against Stalin led many authors, university researchers and even ordinary people to dislike Stalin. Why so much capitalist hatred against Joseph Stalin?

First, some facts. After the Russian Revolution, 12 European countries (including the United States and Japan) invaded the Soviet Union to kill this new socialist society in its cradle. Nevertheless they were defeated. Instead Stalin led the socialist Soviet Union from being “the poor man of Europe” to a world power that challenged the worldwide empire of the capitalist U.S. The capitalist, with their tails between their legs, have vowed to keep this part of history buried from workers.

Under Stalin’s leadership, the Soviet Union became powerful enough to defeat Hitler’s Nazis in World War II. Of the 250 Nazi divisions that fought in World War II, 200 of them fought to conquer the Soviet Union...and were defeated. Eighty five percent of German casualties were at the hands of the USSR. It was only after the Soviets began pushing the Nazis back, that the Allies invaded Normandy, and entered World War II.

The Soviet workers and their Red Army suffered huge casualties (20 million dead) and destruction. Nevertheless it was their valour and incredible sacrifice that defeated the Nazis. Despite the toll they were still able to provide education to all of its citizens,

this included college and trade schools. They provided universal health care and employment. Workers had four weeks of paid vacation and received a pension at age 60, women at age 55. They had paid maternity leave and free childcare and they eliminated the centuries-old famines that had racked the Ukraine.

Some charge that Stalin was a dictator, yet he struggled mightily for a new constitution with secret elections so that the entrenched bureaucracy would be challenged. Local Party Secretaries defeated him in this effort. It is helpful to see the sources of the criticisms of Stalin. The sources of the forced starvation stories in the Ukraine are anti-communist, pro-Nazi sympathizers who left the Ukraine and headed to the Western countries.

In 1956 Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev denounced Stalin and his achievements in a secret speech. Khrushchev wanted to take the USSR in a more capitalist direction. Professor Grover Furr documents that of the 61 charges Khrushchev levels against Stalin, 60 can be proven to be false. Needless to say that speech is the source of many of the attacks on Stalin.

Another source of attacks was the writing and organizing of Leon Trotsky. He was a charismatic individual with the emphasis on individual. Trotsky belonged to a different party than Stalin and Lenin. He joined the Bolsheviks when the Russian Revolution was imminent. When Lenin died, Trotsky thought that he should be the next leader.

He organized for his ideas. They were publicized widely in the party, but when it came to a

vote, his position lost 724,000 to 4,000. The Bolsheviks and Lenin chose Stalin. However, he continued to organize against Stalin and the Bolshevik leadership and was finally kicked out of the party. He secretly continued his anti-Stalin organizing and propaganda. He appealed, not to the workers, but to the capitalists all over the world for support. Capitalists loved his stories because it gave them more ammunition against Stalin. But Furr speaks and reads Russian and English and has had access to Trotsky’s archives as well as the archives of the former Soviet Union. He has written and self-published several books on the period. For those who want to learn what really took place under Stalin’s leadership, please go to his website: <https://msu-web.montclair.edu/~furr/>

The fact is that college professors who try to write a balanced or a favorable view of Stalin are ostracized by the system. They can’t get published. Those that promote anti-Stalinism get published, paid and praised. The reason the capitalists hate Stalin is because he helped lead a revolution that threw them out of power.

The capitalists who exploit workers, who bring death and destruction, who promote racism and sexism, hate Stalin. They benefit from our ignorance that it is possible to have a system where the capitalists do not exist. But a better world is possible. It’s communism where the workers of the world rule and the capitalists end up in the trash heap of history.



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Prisoners strike over slave labor

NYT, 8/27 — The inmates at North Carolina’s [prison]...hung three banners from the prison fence...ask[ing] for better food;...parole; ...[say- ing] “In Solidarity.”

The protest came in support of a nationwide strike to call attention to low inmate wages, decrepit facilities and harsh sentences that organizers say plague prison populations across the country. “Prisoners aren’t oblivious to their reality,” said...the...director of the Human Rights Defense Center....They see people dying around them. They see the financial exploitation. They see the injustice.” Inmate protests...have had success coordinating from penitentiary to penitentiary and state to state....In 2016, prisoners in several states stopped reporting to work to protest their wages....

...Inmate pay can range from noting at all...to, at best, a few dollars for a day of hard labor.... Prisoners frequently refer to it as “slave labor....” This year’s strike [has] called for inmates to be paid the prevailing wage for the cleaning, cooking and other work they perform behind bars....

In addition,...strikers were calling for changes to sentencing laws and expanded access to rehabilitation and educational opportunities.... Inmates could stop reporting for work...and no longer buying supplies from the prison commissary....

In April, seven inmates died in...a South Carolina prison, and...in August, at least 10 Mississippi inmates have died.

Chicago: segregation is govt-sponsored and int’l

NYT, 9/10 — Chicago is one of the most segregated cities in the United States....But segregation is intentional....The University of Illinois...

released a report...that stated, “Racial and ethnic inequities in Chicago remain pervasive, persistent, and consequential....

...Segregation is rooted in racism, and...government’s culpability as a vehicle for and perpetrator of racism

The racist side of environmental pollution

NYT, 8/25 — Rev. Dr. William Barber....[un- masked] pollution from North Carolina’s coal- powered electrical plants.

“If you put coal ash in my water you don’t love me. Because if there was nothing wrong with the coal ash, then put it in the wealthy communi- ties....” Lower-income communities — especially Black, Hispanic and Native American ones — tend to be more polluted and bear more of the burden of climate change than higher-income and white communities....Belews Creek, a predominantly Black community in a predominantly white coun- ty...resides in the shadow of the Belews Creek Steam Station, a coal-fired power plant. All coal plants generate coal ash, a powdery substance that remains after burning coal....

The E.P.A. links the substances in coal ash — including...arsenic and lead — to nervous-system problems, reproductive issues and cancer....The E.P.A. this week loosened rules on air pollution from coal plants and estimated the change would result in up to 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030....Duke Energy, the plant’s owner, is dump- ing untreated coal ash pollution directly into the surface water at the Belews Creek plant [and it]... is leaking into surface water and the connected groundwater....

In 2014, a drainage pipe collapsed...spilling millions of gallons of sludge.

U.S. hospitals net billion\$ in profits from ER overcharges

NYT, 9/10, (op-ed Melnick) — ...Americans pay more for health care than citizens of any other country. But on of the most powerful forces driving cost increases is buried in...regulations concern- ing emergency room care....[which] have granted

hospitals...a monopoly over emergency room patients, allowing them to charge basically whatever they want....

...If they demand higher prices from health plans and do not get them, the hospitals can just cancel their contract....

When there is not contract....what was a \$500 E.R. visit under a contract becomes a \$5,000 billed charge....From 2002 to 2016, total billed charges by hospitals rose by a staggering \$263 billion, to \$386 billion, even though the number of patients admitted did not increase. Billed charges to health plans grew from \$6,900 per day to over \$19,500 per day....An American family of four...now pays an average of more than \$28,000 a year for health care.... Health care prices and insurance premi- ums will continue to grow. This will mean lower take-home pay for millions of working Americans and increases in the ranks of the uninsured.

U.S. guilty of war crimes in Yemen

NYT, 8/29 (editorial) — The United States, by providing weapons and support to the Saudi-led coalition waging indiscriminate war in Yemen, shares in the blame....The bomb that annihi- lated the school bus...was American.... It was a 55-pound, laser-guided bomb sold to Saudi Ara- bia....

Saudi Arabia and its allies have little compunc- tion about slaughtering children as long as more bombs can be bought...

[UN Report] 8/29 — The military coalition... has killed thousands of civilians in airstrikes, tor- tured detainees, raped civilians and used child soldiers as young as 8 — actions that may amount to war crimes....There have been 18,000 such strikes....The coalition’s arbitrary restrictions on shipping... “has had a chilling effect on...supplies of fuel and food needed to fend off starvation.... The report detailed rape and abuse by....Security Belt Forces...controlled [by] United Arab Emirates that targeted migrant women and children.

Spike Lee's *Black KKKlansmen* is a fascist NYPD advertisement

This summer audiences had the opportunity to contrast two films by Black directors addressing the role of the police. One, *Sorry to Bother You*, by first-time director Boots Riley, who proudly calls himself a communist, accurately depicts the cops attacking striking workers trying to keep out scabs. The police are friends of the company, not the workers. This social satire addresses alienation and wage slavery, collective versus individual advancement, the need for militant strikes and multi-racial unity, and the role of the state (especially the police) in protecting the owners' profits. This is communist art, one that helps us understand and fight capitalist exploitation.

The other film, *BlackKkKlansman*, is by veteran director Spike Lee, who was recently paid \$219,000 by the New York Police Department (NYPD) to help develop a program to build closer ties between the NYPD and Black and Latino residents, who will never forget "New York's finest" many racist killings: Eric Garner, Amadou Diallo, Ramarley Graham, Patrick Dorismond, Sean Bell, Eleanor Bumpurs, Shantel Davis, Kimani Gray, Saheed Vassell and many others. Lee's art distorts reality and offers a mythical view of the police as people who risk their lives infiltrating and disrupting white supremacist groups.

KKKop investigated PLP

Lee's film is supposedly based on a memoir by Ron Stallworth, a former Colorado Springs detective who spent years infiltrating Black radical and communist groups, including Progressive Labor Party (PLP). Stallworth said in a recent interview:

"And I was actually running two investigations at once: the Klan investigation and an undercover investigation of the Progressive Labor Party. I'd bounce back and forth from one investigation to another" (Time, 8/9). Stallworth was part of the FBI Counter Intelligence Program (Cointelpro). Boots Riley has written a three-page critique of *BlackKkKlansman*, in which he accurately reports:

"Cointelpro's objectives were to destroy radical organizations, especially Black radical organizations. Cointelpro papers also show us that when white supremacist organizations were infiltrated by the FBI and cops, it was not to disrupt them. It was to use them to threaten and/or physically attack radical organizations. ... In some cases, it was the undercover cops who came up with plans and literally pulled the trigger on assassinations. . . That is what Ron Stallworth was helping to do."

A few more lies:

Riley details how *BlackKkKlansman* is filled with distortions, including made-up scenes:

Stallworth and the Colorado Springs police never prevented a KKK bombing.

This was added to create suspense and make the police seem



heroic. The scene in which a drunk white cop with a history of racist abuse is secretly recorded, and was then later arrested was entirely fabricated. Lee wants us to believe that most police care about racism. But in the real world, police embrace a "blue wall of silence" that protects cops who regularly brutalize Black, Latin and white workers.

Stallworth could speak on the phone with KKK leaders, but as a Black man, he obviously couldn't show up at Klan meetings. A white cop (played by Adam Driver) went in his place. In the film, the partner is Jewish and is almost discovered by a suspicious Klan member, who would have reacted violently. In real life, the cop was not Jewish. Once again, Lee made this up to exaggerate the risks to the police.

The film also creates the character of Patrice, the leader of the Black Student Union at Colorado College. She is initially appalled when she learns that Stallworth is an undercover cop. Yet in one of the final scenes, Patrice and Ron walk down the hall together, guns drawn, to confront a burning cross.

The message is clear: cops and anti-racist activists should be allies in the fight against racism.

Do the right thing? Art serves the ruling Class agenda

Riley correctly points out that Lee devoted his storytelling talent to altering the facts into a piece of art that defends the racist capitalist state, making the cops look like heroes and anti-racist allies of the working class. Riley describes Lee's lionization of the cops as "really disappointing, to put it mildly." Spike Lee depicted police violence negatively in 1989's *Do The Right Thing*, honoring the names of police-murder victims such as Eleanor Bumpers. Some workers may have seen him as a rebel. But the film industry serves to build up capitalism, not make meaningful criticism of it.

Lee has been part of that industry for a long time now and his payday from the NYPD makes it even more inevitable that he will produce narratives that prop up the status quo and seek to win more youth and Black workers to support the state apparatus, specifically the police. We must see this film as part of the conditioning the state imposes on us to see the police as our saviors, starting when Officer Friendly visited our kindergarten. As communists it is our duty to rip the hood off films that attempt to use identity and fake progressive politics, to feed us the bosses crappy anti-communist, and anti-workers culture.✊

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